**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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| In Re Application of: | Confirmation Number: 4930 |
| Malik, Dale W. | Group Art Unit: 2152 |
| Serial No.: 10/685,562 | Examiner: Dailey, Thomas J. |
| Filed: October 14, 2003 | Docket No. 190250-1440 |

For: **MERGING INSTANT MESSAGING (IM) CHAT SESSIONS**

**RESPONSE**

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.114, a Request for Continued Examination is filed concurrently with this response so that the Final Office Action mailed May 21, 2007, is now effectively made non-final. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

**AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT ACCOUNT**

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account no. 20-0778.